United Nations A/56/305

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 August 2001
English
Original: Spanish

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Item 66 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 16 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Government of the Republic of Panama, I have the honour to convey to you herewith Panama's position on the proposal contained in the note dated 8 August 2001, transmitted to you by the representatives of Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominica, El Salvador, the Gambia, Nicaragua, Palau, Senegal and Tuvalu, in which they requested, pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session of a supplementary item entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected".

In the light of that request, the Government of Panama wishes to state for the record that it deems the issue under discussion to be an internal matter for the Chinese people, to be resolved through respectful dialogue and mutual understanding, and it considers that supporting this request by a large number of States Members of the United Nations in no way affects the cordial relations of friendship and collaboration that Panama aspires to maintain and strengthen with the People's Republic of China. As it has stated repeatedly, the Government of Panama continues to urge the parties in conflict to settle their differences in accordance with the democratic and humanitarian norms that form the basis of civilized society.

The purposes and principles of Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations require the United Nations to, inter alia, take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace. In addition, Article 1 calls for achieving international cooperation to solve international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or

* A/56/150.

01-51459 (E) 200801 200801

humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Based on those notions, the Republic of Panama believes that the presence of the Republic of China in the United Nations system will help to achieve that goal, just as in previous years full participation in the United Nations contributed to the unification of Germany and is now helping to resolve the differences between South Korea and North Korea.

In the view of the Government of Panama, the purposes and principles of the United Nations should be applied to the situation of the Republic of China, so long as the Chinese people is able to resolve its differences through dialogue and negotiation, without external interference of any kind. The Republic of China, inspired by the principles of nationalism, democracy and survival of the Chinese people, proclaimed in 1911 by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, was established and consolidated on the island of Taiwan in 1949, and it fully exercises all the attributes of sovereignty, chiefly with regard to the exercise of governmental authority in the territory under its control, in accordance with the democratic system and respect for human rights.

On a prior occasion, the Republic of Panama, by means of a note dated 10 September 1998, signed by its then Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Aquilino E. Boyd, stated to you that the Republic of China "acquires rights and contracts obligations under international law, is subject to universal norms on numerous subjects" and acts in the international arena in the same manner as States represented in the United Nations system. Moreover, in the half-century that has elapsed since its establishment on the island of Taiwan, the Republic of China has seen significant political, economic and social development which renders it in practice an important member of the international community, as has been widely recognized at the global level.

The Government of Panama, whose foreign policy is fully engaged in the development of the democratic system and respect for human rights throughout the world, believes that the continued exclusion of the Republic of China from the United Nations system is inconsistent with the principles that underlie the Organization's functioning, the commitment to the democratic system and human rights that the United Nations system proclaims and promotes, and the international realities witnessed by all the peoples of the world. Accordingly, the Government of Panama, a peace-loving promoter of democracy, requests that the item concerning the participation of the Republic of China in the United Nations system receive serious and sustained consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in the light of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and contemporary international law.

The Government of Panama declares that the proposal submitted to you on 8 August 2001 by the representatives of Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominica, El Salvador, the Gambia, Nicaragua, Palau, Senegal and Tuvalu is consistent with Panamanian foreign policy. The Republic of Panama maintains cordial, respectful and fruitful diplomatic relations with the Republic of China and has, since 1995, maintained high-level trade relations, also friendly, respectful and profitable, with the Government of the People's Republic of China. Both relations have since their inception developed in the context of friendship and close collaboration.

Expressing the conviction of the Republic of Panama that the proposal submitted by the aforesaid Member States suggests a workable procedure for facilitating a solution to the problem between the Republic of China and the

People's Republic of China, I have the honour of requesting that this note be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 66 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Ramon **Morales Quijano**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative